

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER
AFTERNOON SUMMARY OF NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
13 June 1978

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UNITED STATES

- file*
1. US/CUBA: Fidel Castro met last night with two members of the House International Relations Committee.

He told the Congressmen:

- US/Cuban relations are at their lowest point since the President took office, and offered to meet with the President with a view of resolving mutual problems.
- The President has been "manipulated and deceived" by elements in his own administration about the Shaba invasion, and pinned responsibility on National Security Adviser Brzezinski.
- Strongly reiterated Cuban denials of complicity in the Shaba operation, and said he had, in fact, sought to prevent it.
- Claimed that on the same day the State Department was accusing Cuba of complicity in the Shaba affair, he received a message from the President and Secretary Vance taking note of his assurances to the contrary and expressing appreciation for same.
- Refused to give any commitment about possible future use of Cuban troops in Rhodesia or Eritrea.
- Promised to allow some 1,600 dual Cuban/US citizens and dependents to leave Cuba for the US.

2. US/USSR: All wire services have stories on the arrest in Moscow yesterday of Francis J. Crawford, a US businessman. It took 17 hours for the Soviet Foreign Ministry to get around to confirming the arrest and granting permission for a US consular officer to visit Crawford who is being held in Lefortovo Prison, an investigation center of the KGB. Crawford is charged with violating Article 78 of the Soviet criminal code which deals with illegal transfer of goods or other valuables across the Soviet border and carries a sentence of between three and ten years. The press continues to see a linkage between this and other recent Soviet actions to the arrest in the US last month of two Soviet UN employees on spy charges. (All wire services)

COMMENT: Our Moscow embassy reports that Crawford was the target of an earlier Soviet provocation. (Confidential)

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3. US/INDIA: President Carter welcomed Prime Minister Desai at the White House with praise for his efforts to strengthen democracy in India and improve relations with the US. The President also defended his recent proposal to sell enriched uranium to India despite differences over nuclear policy. The Prime Minister responding, with equal warmth, declared "there is no conflict or clash of fundamental interests between us." (Reuter, UPI)
4. US/CAMBODIA: Cambodian Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, on a brief visit to Tokyo, has told newsmen that CIA and Vietnamese agents helped foment three unsuccessful coups against the Communist government in Phnom Penh since it came to power in April 1975. Sary claimed the first attempt occurred in September 1975, the others sometime in 1976 and 1977, but gave no further details. (AP)
5. US: The President has scheduled a press conference at 1500 EDT tomorrow. It is expected to be nationally televised. (All wire services)

MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA

1. MIDDLE EAST: Jerusalem radio has announced the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. But not before handing over a border zone running from the Mediterranean to the slopes of Mt. Hermon to Lebanese Christian forces, and promising to keep a commitment to protect the Christian minority in the area. The commander of the Christians claims all arrangements had been worked out with the commander of the UN forces, a claim disputed by a UN spokesman in Jerusalem. In any case, the Christians are acting as though they are very much in charge, posting armored cars close to UN positions and insisting on examining documents of UN troops that pass by.

In northern Lebanon, the fierce fighting that flared this morning between rival Christian factions, and in which former President Franjeh's son was killed, apparently has subsided with the arrival on the scene of Arab peacekeeping troops. There are no illusions however, that the situation has been brought under control, and more savage outbursts are expected. The elder Franjeh has vowed vengeance. (All wire services)

2. ZAIRE: An international conference convened in Brussels today to consider ways and means of helping Zaire get its economy straightened out. Zaire is reported to have submitted a detailed program calling for a revamped national administration, more foreign investments and help from international financial organizations.

It will not be a cake-walk for Zaire. In his opening remarks to the conference, Belgian Foreign Minister Simonet made the point that a revival of production and improved management are inseparably linked and are a requirement for the success of the recovery effort. Earlier, EC foreign ministers, meeting in Copenhagen, indicated a willingness to come up with more economic assistance to Zaire, but only if there are strict guarantees that monies will be spent on projects for which they were intended. Saudi Arabia, incidently, which originally said it would attend the conference

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backed out at the last minuted.

In Zaire, itself, about 250 Togolese and Ivory Coast troops have arrived which just about completes the formation of the inter-African force that is to police Shaba Province. (AP, FBIS, Reuter)

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